THE NINTH DAY.

22nd February 1917

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 22nd February 1917.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(2) TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES—(*Concluded.*)

123. General sanitation of the town of Quilon.

Mr. S. Venkitakrishna Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said that the general sanitation of the town was far from satisfactory and he made the following suggestions for improving the same :—

1. (*a*) *Improvement of the more important tanks.*—The Palace tank was surrounded on all sides by public roads and was largely used by the female population. To ensure privacy there was only one shed put up at the middle of the western ghat. The Member suggested that more sheds on all the four sides be put up, that parapet walls be constructed on all sides to prevent the flow of water on the road in the rainy season into the tank, that a vigilant watcher be posted to prevent the strip of land on the southern side being used as a privy, that the Maramat Department be asked to look to the proper construction and preservation of steps on all the four sides, that the slopes of the tank be constructed of dry rubble pitching and that the necessary arrangements be made for annually draining the water just before the monsoons.

(*b*) The four sides of the Cutcherry tank were in a very filthy condition and the space to the south of it was used as an open privy. The Cutcherry tank also required all the repairs proposed in regard to the Palace tank.

(*c*) The Kammankulam tank was under the supervision of the P. W. D. Private houses were springing up on the northern and southern sides. To ensure privacy, sheds ought to be put up on all the four sides and parapet walls erected so that rain water from the roads might not pollute the tank. Annual draining should also be carried out.

(*d*) The Lakshmi Nadai tank was largely resorted to by the Brahmin ratepayers. For the last several years, no draining had been done and the tank was in a most neglected and deplorable condition. The tank should be restored and all the epairs above suggested should be effected in respect of the Lakshmi Nadai tank also.

2. *Removal of the public latrine situated north of the Public offices.*—On the east of the latrine was the Government Girls' School, on the south the Public offices and on the west a cluster of houses forming a village, besides the Anandavalleeswaram temple. The place was least fitted for a latrine. It was in spite of the protest of the people of the place that the latrine was put up. Since the latrine was prejudical to public health, it should be removed as early as possible. If the removal could not be effected now, the Member suggested that at least flushing arrangements be made and an outlet leading to the back-water be provided.

3. *The retention of a strip of land as a place of public resort.* The Member pointed out the necessity of retaining the strip of plot on the southern side of the Palace tank in a proper state for the public to resort to and said that it was the duty of the Government to provide such healthy resorts for the people.

Dewan's reply.—The Government have sanctioned the transfer of the latrine north of the public offices to the Town Improvement Committee at Quilon. An

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

stimate for providing a pump for flushing has also been called for. The other points are noted.

(3) Medical Relief—(*Concluded*).

124. Establishment of a Medical College at Trivandrum or Quilon.

Mr. S. Venkitakrishna Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said that everyone would easily admit the necessity and utility of having trained physicians all over the State and that it was always desirable to get them trained in the best way possible in an up-to-date institution. The number of qualified medical men in Travancore was inadequate when compared with the growing population and many met with untimely death for want of proper medical advice and treatment.

Even with all the facilities afforded till recently by the Madras Government for the training of youths from Native States in the medical profession, the number was not adequate enough to meet the real necessities of the situation. He understood that the authorities in Burma as well as the Native States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin were required to make, in future, their own arrangements for the training of medical men. It has, therefore, become necessary that the subject should receive the immediate attention of the Government. It was gratifying that the Government had sanctioned the opening of a Medical School at Trivandrum for the training of Hospital Assistants. If the proposal was only in the initial stage, the Member would urge that the standard of the proposed institution should be that of a Medical College. The Member requested a reconsideration of the scheme and the establishment of a Medical College instead of a Medical School. There need not be the fear that the Government could not be in a position to find appointments for all the Medical graduates who might be turned out year after year. Private practice would be lucrative and many would prefer private practice to Government appointments. Students would join the College in large numbers with the object of ultimately opening a Druggist's shop and a hospital of their own.

Regarding the question of finance involved in the scheme, the Member pointed out that the necessary but costly adjunct to every Medical School or College was a properly equipped Laboratory with up-to-date appliances. The chemical materials in the several Hospitals of the State were by far more than were available in other established Schools and Colleges. Thus 90% of the financial strain entailed in an infant institution would be saved. In course of time, with the increasing number of students, the College might become a self-supporting one like the Law-College.

Regarding the location of the proposed College, the Member said that Trivandrum was indeed preferable but, if for any reason the Capital was not selected for the purpose, Quilon was the next best place. There was a good stock of chemical apparatus at the Quilon Hospital which ranked next to the Trivandrum Hospital in efficiency and equipment. There were also big open spaces where a suitable building might be erected for the College. In addition to the above, it had also to be remembered that Quilon was centrally situated and the climate was very agreeable.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that the matter might receive the sympathetic and early attention of the Government and that the establishment of a Medical College either at Trivandrum or Quilon might soon be made an accomplished fact.

Dewan's reply.—The idea of having a Medical College for the State is, no doubt, good. But I fear that it will not be feasible to establish one in the near future. Of course, a College, if opened, will have to be affiliated to the Madras University, as otherwise there is no use in having one. The University authorities are likely to lay down stringent conditions in the matter of building, apparatus, professors, &c, before affiliation, which it would be impossible to satisfy, except by the expenditure of a large amount of money. After all, the need for a College is not so great as for a Medical School. A Medical School has already been sanctioned and that will be opened without much delay.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly